

## CONGRESSIONAL RECORD SUMMARY

Friday, December 14, 2001

### HOUSE

*The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, December 17, 2001, at 2:00 p.m.*

#### Remarks:

The Introduction Of The Retirement Enhancement Act Of 2001.

Andrews

Page E 2304

Social Security Guarantee Plus Act of 2001.

Shaw

Pages E 2307-8

#### **Introduction Of Spectrum License Policy Act.**

*"...It benefits our bankruptcy code, by preserving the doctrine of the stay and the power of the courts to enforce it, even against the government. And it benefits consumers by permitting the spectrum to come on the market as soon as possible, fostering much needed competition..."*

Convers

Page E 2312

Intergovernmental Law Enforcement Information Sharing Act Of 2001, **H.R. 3483**.

Horn

Pages E 2314-15

### SENATE

#### Measures Passed:

**District of Columbia Family Court Act: Senate passed H.R. 2657**, to amend title 11, District of Columbia Code, to redesignate the Family Division of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia as the Family Court of the Superior Court, to recruit and retain trained and experienced judges to serve in the Family Court, to promote consistency and efficiency in the assignment of judges to the Family Court and in the consideration of actions and proceedings in the Family Court, after agreeing to a committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S 13312-17, D 1257

**Daschle (for Lieberman/Thompson) Amendment. No. 2610**, to make certain improvements to the bill.

Pages S 13316, D 1257

**Continuing Appropriations: Senate passed H.J. Res. 78, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2002, clearing the measure for the President.**

Pages S 13317, D 1257

#### S. 1731. Federal Farm Bill:

**Senate continued consideration of S. 1731**, to strengthen the safety net for agricultural producers, to enhance resource conservation and rural development, to provide for farm credit, agricultural research, nutrition, and related programs, to ensure consumers abundant food and fiber, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S 13245-75, D 1257

#### S. 1731. Federal Farm Bill (Cont'd.):

**Pending:**

***Daschle (for Harkin) Amendment No. 2471***, in the nature of a substitute.

*Pages S 13245-75, D 1257*

***Smith (NH) Amendment No. 2596 (to Amendment No. 2471)***, to provide for Presidential certification that the government of Cuba is not involved in the support for acts of international terrorism as a condition precedent to agricultural trade with Cuba.

*Pages S 13246, D 1257*

***Torricelli Amendment No. 2597 (to Amendment No. 2596)***, to provide for Presidential certification that all convicted felons who are living as fugitives in Cuba have been returned to the United States prior to the amendments relating to agricultural trade with Cuba becoming effective.

*Pages S 13246, D 1257*

***Daschle motion*** to reconsider the vote (Vote 368) by which the motion to close further debate on ***Daschle (for Harkin) Amendment No. 2471 (listed above)*** failed.

*Pages S 13246, D 1257-8*

**Remarks:**

Military Tribunals.

Leahy

*Pages S 13275-6*

The Continuing Debate On The Use Of Military Commissions.

Leahy

*Pages S 13276-80*

**Nomination Of Eugene Scalia.**

*"...What is bothering me is we have an inordinate number of circuit court of appeals judge nominations that are not being brought up. At our last confirmation hearing for district court nominees, a point was made that those nominees had been pending for less than 60 days since receipt of their American Bar Association ratings. If this is the standard, then the committee is falling woefully behind, especially on circuit court of appeals nominations. There are 8 circuit court nominees who have been languishing for 157 days or more since receiving their ABA ratings. In fact, some of them have been pending for more than 180 days since being rated by the ABA and nearly 220 days since their nomination. I agree with the suggestion that 2 months should be the standard limit to review nominees. We should apply this standard or better to the circuit court nominees President Bush sent to the Senate nearly 220 days ago. These are not just nominees, these are some of the finest lawyers ever nominated to the circuit courts of appeals, and I will mention two of them..."*

Hatch

*Pages S 13287-90*

Guns And Terrorists.

Levin

*Page S 13291*

**Remarks (Cont'd.):**

**Hold To S. 1805.**

*"...As you know, I firmly believe that the Federal judiciary should not be expanded prior to comprehensive congressional oversight. Congress has not held a single hearing in this Congress on whether additional judges are necessary for the Federal courts, and specifically has not evaluated whether there is a need to convert the temporary judgeships contained in S. 1805 into permanent judgeships. Arguments that the Judicial Conference has recommended these changes should be scrutinized with care, the formula that the Judicial Conference utilizes to create judgeships is flawed and can be substantially manipulated. There needs to be serious congressional oversight of the numbers, which is our responsibility. We need to ensure that the courts are employing all appropriate methods to take care of their caseloads and to make sure that they are utilizing all efficiencies and techniques. Moreover, we should be looking at filling appropriate existing judicial vacancies before we create new judgeships..."*

Grassley

*Page S 13295*

**Next SENATE MEETING: Monday, 12:30 p.m., December 17, 2001.**

**Next HOUSE MEETING: Monday, 2:00 p.m., December 17, 2001.**

**OLA: S. Schwarz (Smith)**